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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

Reports from Cape Colony—Plague—Examination for plague and plague-infected rats.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, January 4, 1904.

The following report by the medical officer of health for the colony on the state of the outbreak of bubonic plague in the Cape Colony for the week ended January 2, 1904, is published for general information.

NOEL JANISCH,
Under Colonial Secretary.

Report of the medical officer of health on the state of plague in Cape Colony during week ended January 2, 1904.

Port Elizabeth.—No case of plague was discovered during the week. Dead rodents, probably plague-infected, continued to be found in the town during the week.

East London.—One case of plague was discovered during the week, namely, a native child on the 2d instant. At the Plague Hospital no patients died or were discharged. Two cases remain under treatment. Plague-infected rodents continued to be found in the town during the week.

Other places.—In King Williams Town, Queenstown, Knysna, Lady Grey Bridge, and Graaff-Reinet no case of plague in man or animals was discovered during the week.

Cape Town and harbor board area.—Two hundred and five rats were examined during the week. None were found affected with plague.

A. JOHN GREGORY,
Medical Officer of Health for the Colony.

BRAZIL.

Report from Bahia—Mortuary statistics.

Consul Furniss reports, January 11, as follows: During the week ended January 9, 1904, 82 bodies were interred in the Bahia cemeteries:

Causes of death: Arterio-sclerosis, 2; asphyxia, 1; beriberi, 3; bronchitis, 1; cerebral congestion, 3; diabetes, 1; diarrhea and enteritis, 8; gangrene, 1; hepatitis, 3; malarial fevers, 3; meningitis, 1; myelitis, 1; nephritis, 2; organic diseases of heart, 3; peritonitis, 1; pneumonia, 1; pulmonary tuberculosis, 14; senile debility, 2; septic fever, 1; still-born, 3; syphilis, 1; tetanus neonatorum, 1; typhus fever, 2; umbilical hemorrhage, 3; other causes, 20.

Report from Rio de Janeiro—Plague, smallpox, and yellow fever—Efficient measures against mosquitoes.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports, January 12, 1904, as follows:

During the week ended January 9, 1904, I inspected the steamship *Tennyson*, British, Lamport and Holt Line, for New York, with 16

third-class passengers. This ship was just from Ilha Grande Quarantine, via Santos, where she had been disinfected on her way to Santos, Brazil, which port being reported clean, I issued bills of health to vessel, and to the steamship *Lenctra*, a German tramp, but chartered for the trip to New Orleans, La., by the same line, with one passenger, the captain's wife, and issued bills of health to her also.

Both vessels carried cargoes of coffee only. The *Tennyson* sailed for New York, via Bahia, Pernambuco and Barbados, at all of which ports she is obliged to load in quarantine on account of the plague here, while the *Lenctra* sailed for New Orleans, via Victoria, Brazil. As the ship people did not wish to load at Victoria in quarantine they were disinfected here while in the harbor, and just prior to sailing by the local authorities.

There was no excessive heat during the week, the temperature being in great degree modified by light rains.

The records of mortality here during the week ended January 10, 1904, are as follows: Total number of deaths, 295. This is the lowest number recorded since the end of September, 1903, and at this season—one usually of high, at any rate increased, mortality—is of interest; yellow fever, no deaths, and but one case; plague, 5 deaths, the lowest number recorded in a week since my arrival, two months ago, while only 10 notifications of the occurrence of cases of plague were reported; variola, 34 cases, with 22 deaths, also the lowest number of deaths from smallpox during the past two months; no cases or deaths from leprosy; 2 deaths from beriberi; 1 death from measles; none from scarlet fever or whooping cough; none from diphtheria (one case of this latter); 4 deaths from enteric fever; none from dysentery; 58 from phthisis pulmonalis; 10 from malarial fevers (a decrease) and the remainder from afflictions other than infectious or contagious in character.

Of the deaths from plague, 4 occurred at Jurajuba in the Paulo Cândido Hospital. This is across the bay from the city of Rio de Janeiro, and is where most of the cases of plague are taken. The other occurred in the district of San Christovao in the city proper.

At the close of the week in question there were 2 cases of yellow fever, convalescents, still under treatment in the São Sebastião Hospital, 94 cases of variola under treatment at the same hospital, and only 40 cases of plague, mostly, as can be seen from the number of new cases occurring during the week, old cases under treatment at the Paulo Cândido Hospital at Jurajuba.

This, as I infer above, is a very promising state of affairs from a sanitary point of view, considering the fact that the summer is one-half over and therefore that cooler weather may soon be expected. The highest range of the thermometer here during the past week, officially reported, was 34.4° C., and the lowest was 19.8° C., giving an average temperature for the week of 27.1° C. Taking the daily fluctuations of the thermometer into account, however, the true average for the week was 23.99° C.

The decrease in the occurrence of cases of yellow fever and malarial fevers is without doubt due to the warfare against mosquitoes, which is carried on with efficiency, and therefore the condition of Rio de Janeiro at this date, when ordinarily yellow fever is claiming many victims, forms one more argument as to the part played by the mosquito in these diseases.

I have but little doubt that in a few years this port will be as free from yellow fever as have been the cities of Cuba since the discovery of the transmission of this fever by the mosquito and the institution of measures against it based on this knowledge.

CANADA.

Inspection of immigrants at St. John, New Brunswick, month of December, 1903.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Billings reports as follows: Month of December, 1903: Number of immigrants inspected, 817; number passed, 787; number detained, 30.

Month of January, 1904: Number of immigrants inspected, 534; number passed, 497; number detained, 37.

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Fumigation of vessels to kill rats.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McMullen reports, December 23, as follows:

During the week ended December 19, 1903, 10 vessels, with 930 officers and crew and 479 passengers (276 cabin and 203 steerage) were inspected and granted bills of health; 590 crew and 100 steerage passengers were bathed and their baggage was disinfected—711 pieces. One vessel bound for Seattle was fumigated to kill rats, and 1 for Manila was ordered via Mariveles for treatment. There were 15 aliens recommended for rejection during the week.

Immigrants for Honolulu, San Francisco, Portland, and Tacoma recommended for rejection.

Number of immigrants per steamship *Korea* for Honolulu recommended December 26, 1903, for rejection, 3; for San Francisco, 26.

Number of immigrants per steamship *Indrasamha* for Portland recommended, December 26, 1903, for rejection, 5.

Number of immigrants per steamship *Victoria* for Tacoma recommended, December 30, 1903, for rejection, 7.

Report from Shanghai—Smallpox.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, December 31, as follows: During the week ended December 26, 1903, 1 original and 3 supplemental bills of health were issued, and there were inspected 3 vessels, 173 crew, 38 cabin, and 1 steerage passenger. One immigration inspection was made with no rejections. Manifests were viséed for 12,522 pieces of freight and 17 pieces were inspected and passed. The holds, the between and spar decks, together with the coolie quarters of one vessel were disinfected with bichloride solution, 1 to 800.

During the week there were reported to the municipal health officer 6 deaths from smallpox, 8 cases of enteric fever, and 2 cases and 1 death from diphtheria. The total reported mortality was 2 foreigners and 113 natives.

Reports received from outports do not show the existence of quarantinable disease.